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Standards for Inspection on Import Food and Food Additives

Report Categories:

FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

On July 22, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) and the Ministry of Health (MOH) published a joint announcement on “Relevant Applicable Standards for Inspection on Import Food and Food Additives” as they relate to the new Chinese Food Safety Law. The announcement also includes applicable standards catalogs for imported food, food additives and food flavorings. This report contains an UNOFFICIAL translation of the announcement.

General Information:

Executive Summary: On July 22, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) and the Ministry of Health (MOH) published a joint announcement on “Relevant Applicable Standards for Inspection on Import Food and Food Additives” as they relate to the new Chinese Food Safety Law (CH9019). Post has published several GAIN Reports about the Food Safety Law and its implementation regulations (CH9018, CH9019, CH9040), including MOH draft regulations (CH9051) which will implement specific aspects of the Food Safety Law.

“Announcement on the Relevant Applicable Standards for Inspection on Import Food and Food Additives” can be found in the original Chinese version on AQSIQ website at following link:

http://www.aqsic.gov.cn/zwgk/jlgg/zjgg/2009/200907/t20090730_123267.htm. Appendix 1 through 3 are very significant, but large, documents and can be downloaded from the same web page. The three appendices include: (1) List of import food and the corresponding applicable standards; (2) List of food additives that are allowed to be used in China and the corresponding applicable standards; (3) List of food flavorings that are allowed to be used in China and the corresponding applicable standards.

This document is particularly important because of the effective delay in implementation afforded to foods and food additives that have previously been imported into China. Paragraph two of the announcement contains the language relating to previous “record of imports.”

This document has not been notified to the World Trade Organization.

This report includes an UNOFFICIAL translation of this announcement.

BEGIN TRANSLATION

Announcement on the Relevant Applicable Standards for Inspection on Import Food and Food Additives

**General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ)
Ministry of Health (MOH)**

Joint Announcement No.72, 2009

Announcement on the Relevant Applicable Standards for Inspection on Import Food and Food Additives

According to the relevant provisions under the Food Safety Law of the People’s Republic of China, the relevant matters are now announced as follows:

1. As of the date of issue of this Announcement, for importation of the products listed in the Appendix 1, Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 of this Announcement, applications for inspection can be lodged directly at the exit-entry inspection and quarantine agencies at the ports of entry. Newly developed national food safety standards will be automatically listed into Appendix 1, Appendix 2 or Appendix 3 (The Appendices 1, 2 and 3 can be found on the AQSIQ and MOH websites. AQSIQ website: <http://aqsiq.gov.cn>. MOH website: <http://moh.gov.cn>)
2. As of the date of issue of this Announcement, for food and food additives that had had a record of import before the implementation of the Food Safety Law of the People’s Republic of China but do not yet have a national food safety standard, prior to the issuance and implementation of the national food safety standard, inspection shall be performed according to the standards specified in the original import records.
3. As of the date of issuance of this Announcement, for importation for the first time of food outside those listed in Appendix 1, Appendix 2 and Appendix 3, once it is determined that no national food safety standard exists, the importers shall lodge an application to the executive department of health under the State Council and submit the relevant safety assessment materials; once an import permit is granted, the importers shall apply for inspection to the exit-entry inspection and quarantine agencies at the ports of entry upon presentation of the permits issued by the Ministry of Health.
4. If there are provisions otherwise provided by other laws or regulations, such provisions shall be enforced.

Appendix 1: List of import food and the corresponding applicable standards

Appendix 2: List of food additives that are allowed to be used in China and the corresponding applicable standards

Appendix 3: List of food flavorings that are allowed to be used in China and the corresponding applicable standards

Chinese:

http://www.aqsiq.gov.cn/zwgk/jlgg/zjgg/2009/200907/t20090730_123267.htm

END TRANSLATION